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reference, and claims the priority of European Patent Application No. 99115701.7, filed August 9, 1999, and the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/157,021, filed October 1, 1999, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention--.

Page 1, before line 21, add the following new subheading:

A2 --Description of the Related Art--.

Page 7, before line 10, add the following new section heading:

A3 --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Page 10, before line 9, add the following new section heading:

A4 --BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Page 10, before line 24, add the following new heading:

A5 --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel now pending claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer and substitute new claims 20-34 therefor as follows:

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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20. (New) A process for the production of a cable having at least one covering layer consisting of a composition comprising at least one polymeric material and a mineral filler in a quantity greater than 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition, said cable being produced by using an extruder comprising a cylindrical casing, at least one extrusion screw of preset pitch positioned within said casing and having an axis of rotation parallel to the axis of said cylinder, a charging

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